

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled).

18. (New) A hole cover for a vehicle, for covering an opening of a tubular member attached to a panel and through which a steering element is to pass, comprising:

a seal body made mainly of elastic material and including an elastic seal portion having a steering penetration portion through which the steering element passes and with which the steering element makes sliding contact in a rotational direction; and

a seal retaining member which fits on said seal body, said seal retaining member having a plurality of latch projections adapted to be pressed against the tubular member substantially along an axis of the steering element so as to be caught in a latch recess formed in a vicinity of an axial end of the tubular member,

wherein when said latch projections are caught in the latch recess, said seal retaining member presses said

seal body against the axial end of the tubular member so that said elastic seal portion of said seal body is brought into pressure contact with a sealing surface formed at the axial end of the tubular member.

19. (New) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 18, wherein when said latch projections are caught in the latch recess, at least one of sound and vibration is produced.

20. (New) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 18, wherein said elastic sealing portion is configured to make contact with a sealing surface having a circular shape, and said latch projections are arranged to be caught in a latch recess having an annular shape.

21. (New) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 18, further comprising an elastic deforming portion that allows movement of the steering penetration portion relative to another portion of said elastic seal portion.

22. (New) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 18, wherein a retaining member bias means for

biasing said seal retaining member in a direction away from the panel is formed on said seal body.

23. (New) A hole cover for a vehicle according to claim 18, wherein said latch projections are arranged to be exposed in an assembled state of said seal retaining member with the tubular member.

24. (New) A hole cover for a vehicle, for covering an opening of a tubular member attached to a panel and through which a steering element is to pass, comprising:

a seal body made mainly of elastic material and including an elastic seal portion having a steering penetration portion through which the steering element passes and with which said steering element makes sliding contact in a rotational direction;

a seal retaining member which fits on said seal body;
and

a plurality of latch means for latching the seal retaining member with the tubular member substantially along an axis of the steering element,

wherein when said seal retaining member is latched to the tubular member by said latch means, the seal retaining member presses the seal body against an axial end of the

tubular member so that the elastic seal portion of the seal body is brought into pressure contact with a sealing surface formed at the axial end of said tubular member.